

May 26, 2004

Kansas City, Missouri, Board of Police Commissioners  
1125 Locust  
Kansas City MO 64106

Members of the Board of Police Commissioners:

During my April 8, 2004 presentation of the *2003 City Services Performance Report*, you asked for comparative information on response times, total crimes reported, crimes reported per 1,000 citizens, clearance rates, and sworn officers and civilians per 1,000 citizens, from cities with populations between 300,000 and 700,000.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Kansas City's response time for top priority calls was the second highest of seven cities with populations between 300,000 and 700,000. Kansas City had the highest number of reported violent and property crimes, highest reported property crimes per capita, and second highest reported violent crimes per capita. Kansas City's clearance rates for violent and property crimes were the third lowest of nine cities, while the number of sworn officers and civilians per capita in the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department is the highest of five cities reporting this information.

### **WORK PERFORMED**

We obtained comparative information on response times, clearance rates, total crimes reported, and crimes reported per capita, number of sworn officers and civilians and sworn officers and civilians per capita from the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA's) *Comparative Performance Measurement FY 2002 Data Report*. Nine cities were identified with populations between 300,000 and 700,000. Not all cities reported to ICMA each of the performance measures examined.

## ANALYSIS

**Response time.** Only six cities report response times for top priority calls, defined as the elapsed time between when a call is received to when the officer arrived on the scene.<sup>1</sup> The ICMA report did not include this response time for Kansas City. However, for our *2003 City Services Performance Report*, Police Department staff identified the 2002 response time for priority 1 calls as 10.98 (10 minutes, 59 seconds). This figure is the second highest of the seven cities we compared, including Kansas City. Only Colorado Springs, Colorado reported a higher response time. (See Exhibit 1.)

Exhibit 1. Response Times for Top Priority Calls by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Population	Response Time <sup>2</sup>
Tucson, AZ	507,085	4.58
Virginia Beach, VA	425,257	6.20
Oklahoma City, OK	510,800	7.32
Portland, OR	536,240	7.60
Austin, TX	667,705	8.25
Kansas City, MO	442,187	10.98
Colorado Springs, CO	378,721	12.82
Average		8.25
Median		7.60

Sources: *ICMA Comparative Performance Measurement FY 2002 Data Report*; and *2003 City Services Performance Report*, March 2004, Office of the City Auditor, p. 27.

**Reported crimes.** Kansas City's crimes reported and crimes reported per capita exceed the average and median of nine cities. Only Oakland, California reported more violent crimes per capita than Kansas City. Kansas City also had the highest reporting of both the number of property crimes and property crimes per capita. (See Exhibit 2.)

Exhibit 2. Reported Crimes and Reported Crimes Per Capita by Type and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Population	Violent Crimes		Property Crimes	
		Number	Per 1,000	Number	Per 1,000
Long Beach, CA	473,100	3,626	7.7	15,287	32.3
Virginia Beach, VA	425,257	868	2.0	15,009	35.3
Colorado Springs, CO	378,721	2,039	5.4	19,922	52.6
Austin, TX	667,705	3,299	4.9	40,965	61.4
Oakland, CA	409,300	5,815	14.2	25,555	62.4
Mesa, AZ	431,874	3,272	7.6	29,684	68.7
Portland, OR	536,240	4,562	8.5	39,222	73.1
Oklahoma City, OK	510,800	4,121	8.1	42,861	83.9
Kansas City, MO	442,187	6,054	13.7	43,371	98.1
Average		3,740	8.0	30,208	63.1
Median		3,626	7.7	29,684	62.4

Source: *ICMA Comparative Performance Measurement FY 2002 Data Report*.

<sup>1</sup> ICMA did not define top priority calls. It states that a top priority call should be determined by citizens, elected officials, and others. Recognizing the unique needs and preferences of each community, participants have agreed to report data for this indicator on the basis of their local definition of a top priority police call. For the purpose of this memo, we use the response time reported for priority 1 calls.

<sup>2</sup> Measured in minutes and hundredths of a second.

**Clearance rates.** Out of nine cities, Kansas City's clearance rates was the third lowest for both violent and property crimes. (See Exhibit 3.)

Exhibit 3. Cleared Crimes by Type and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Population	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes
Oakland, CA	409,300	30.9%	6.7%
Mesa, AZ	431,874	29.6%	9.3%
Kansas City, MO	442,187	35.2%	9.5%
Oklahoma City, OK	510,800	56.1%	10.3%
Austin, TX	667,705	42.6%	11.0%
Long Beach, CA	473,100	49.7%	11.7%
Portland, OR	536,240	36.9%	12.6%
Colorado Springs, CO	378,721	52.9%	20.3%
Virginia Beach, VA	425,257	60.8%	20.5%
Average		43.9%	12.4%
Median		42.6%	11.0%

Source: ICMA Comparative Performance Measurement FY 2002 Data Report.

**Staffing.** Only four comparable cities reported the number of sworn and civilian personnel per capita. The ICMA report did not include staffing figures for Kansas City. However, Police Department staff also provided this information for our *2003 City Services Performance Report*. Kansas City's personnel numbers were the highest for both sworn and civilian staffing categories. (See Exhibit 4.)

Exhibit 4. Sworn and Civilian Police Personnel Per Capita by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Population	Sworn Officers Per 1,000 Citizens	Civilian Personnel Per 1,000 Citizens
Virginia Beach, VA	425,257	1.93	0.39
Colorado Springs, CO	378,721	1.76	0.71
Austin, TX	667,705	2.13	0.77
Oakland, CA	409,300	2.89	0.97
Kansas City, MO	442,187	2.94	1.37
Average		2.33	0.84
Median		2.13	0.77

Sources: ICMA Comparative Performance Measurement FY 2002 Data Report; and 2003 City Services Performance Report, March 2004, Office of the City Auditor, p. 29.

Sincerely,

Mark Funkhouser  
City Auditor

cc: Police Chief Richard Easley  
Wayne A. Cauthen, City Manager